



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4
3-25-02

Applicants: Stefan SCHMITT
Frank KARETTA
Rainer EICHHOLZ

Serial No.: 09/990,763

Filing Date: 09 November 2001

Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR REFINING A
GLASS MELTING

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Rules 1.56 and 1.98, References AA-AB and AL-AO listed on Form PTO-1449 are cited and discussed on Pages 2 and 3 of the referenced U.S. Patent Application and are brought to the attention of the Examiner as being possibly material to examination of this Patent Application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

31 JAN 02

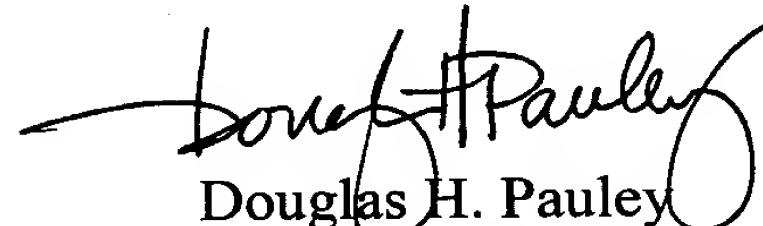
31 JAN 02
Date

Donald H. Paulsen
Signature

Serial No.: 09/990,763

Form PTO-1449 (1 page) is enclosed with a copy of each and every reference cited on Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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| <div>FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)</div> <div>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</div> <div>LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)</div> <div></div> | ATTY. DOCKET NO. VO-553 | SERIAL NO. 09/990,763 |
| | APPLICANT(S) Stefan SCHMITT et al. | |
| | FILING DATE 09 November 2001 | GROUP |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|-----------------|---------|---------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | AA | 1,598,308 | 08/1926 | Pike | | | |
| | AB | 4,704,153 | 11/1987 | Schwenninger et al. | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | |
| | AG | | | | | | |
| | AH | | | | | | |
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| | AJ | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | AL | 0 231 518 | 03/1991 | EPO | | | | |
| | AM | 0 253 188 | 01/1988 | EPO | | | | |
| | AN | 0 908 417 | 04/1999 | EPO | | | | |
| | AO | 0 775 671 | 05/1997 | EPO | | | | |
| | AP | | | | | | | |

| OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.